(b) whether it is a fact that the implementation of this trunk pipeline has become uncertain following an interim order issued by the Calcutta High Court restraining ONGC from issuing letter of credit or awarding a Rs. 200-crore contract for pipe coating;

(c) whether it is a fact that any further delay in the project will adversely affect the gas-based industries set-up alongwith HBJ pipeline; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the root cause of the dispute is ONGC's failure to incorporate clear-cut criteria for prequalifying the bidders and its tendency to change the tender conditions, if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. the interim orders of Calcutta High Court have since been vacated.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

Letter of intent by ONGC to Hyundai of South Korea

2904. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:
SHRI SINGH PRIYA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that ONGC has placed a letter of intent on Hyundai on South Korea involving $ 200 million in a contract for Bassein-Hazira trunk gas pipeline, if so, what are th details of this international competitive bidding;

(b) whether it is also a fact that McDermott international has complained to the Finance Minister about the evaluation of bids by ONGC; and

(c) what steps are being taken by the Finance Ministry to intervene and solve the issue, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) ONGC has awarded contract to the lowest bidder viz. HHI-OHI Consortium for laying Bassein-Hazira trunk gas pipeline. The contract was awarded on the basis of a global tender in accordance with the ADB guidelines.

(b) and (c) A report is being sent to the Ministry of Finance.

Revision on Rates of Royalty on Crude Oil and Natural Gas

2905. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) when is the next revision of rates of "Royalty" on crude oil and natural gas due;

(b) what will be the revised rates; and

(c) when are the revised rates likely to be brought into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The rate of royalty will be due for revision for the block period of 1993—96. The revised rates to be arrived at will be known only after the well-head price of oil for this period becomes available and will come into effect after they are so notified.

Target of Import for Petroleum Products

2906. SHRI IQBAL SINGH:
SHRIMATI ILA PANDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount spent on the import of crude oil and petroleum products during the last three years;